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EXDIS-DOD HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. LEBANON: RUMORS OF AN ARMY COUP

EMBASSY BEIRUT'S DEFENSE ATTACHE HAS LEARNED FROM SEVERAL "TRUSTED INFORMANTS" THAT TALK OF AN ARMY-ORGANIZED COUP AGAINST PRESIDENT FRANGIE IS RAMPANT. ACCORDING TO THE EMBASSY, THE LOGIC RUNS:

--FRANGIE IS TOTALLY INADEQUATE AND HAS LOST THE COUNTRY'S CONFIDENCE.

--UNDER THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, IF ELECTIONS WERE HELD NEXT APRIL, THE RESULT WOULD BE A LEFTIST VICTORY.

--FRANGIE SHOULD BE REPLACED NOW SO THAT A "SOLID" INDIVIDUAL (POSSIBLY CAMILLE CHAMOUN) COULD BE ELECTED BY THE CURRENT PARLIAMENT FOR A FULL SIX YEAR TERM.
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THE DEFENSE ATTACHE VIGOROUSLY DEMURRED AT THE SUGGESTION THAT THE ONLY PREREQUISITE FOR ACTION WAS THE EMBASSY'S SANCTION OF FRANGIE'S OUSTER. (SECRET) BEIRUT 12421 (EXDIS), 10/6.)

2. WILL PORTUGUESE LEADERS MATCH WORDS WITH ACTIONS

EMBASSY LISBON REPORTS COSTA GOMES AND AZEVEDO MADE STATEMENTS LAST WEEKEND STRESSING THE NEED FOR RESTORATION OF DISCIPLINE, ORDER AND GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY.

--ALTHOUGH COSTA GOMES' REMARKS PROVIDEDA A TIMELY BOOST TO AZEVEDO'S EFFORTS, DEMONSTRATIONS OCTOBER 6-7 IN OPORTO AND LISBON PLACE ADDITIONAL STRESS ON ALREADY SHAKY MILITARY DISCIPLINE.

--AZEVEDO BLAMED LEFTIST MILITANTS FOR SUBVERTING MILITARY DISCIPLINE AND SAID HE HAD FORMED THE MILITARY INTERVENTION GROUP TO ENSURE THAT HIS DECISIONS WERE NOT NEGATED BY COPCON'S OTELO.

--AZEVEDO ALSO INDICATED HE WOULD ASK THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL TO APPROVE CONVERSION OF THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY INTO A LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, WITHOUT ELECTIONS, WHEN THE ASSEMBLY TERM ENDS IN DECEMBER.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE OUTCOME IS STILL UNCERTAIN, BUT AZEVEDO'S WILLINGNESS TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE AT LEAST GIVES THE ANTI-COMMUNISTS A FIGHTING CHANCE. (CONFIDENTIAL) LISBON 5892, 10/6.)

3. SYRIAN OPPOSITION TO SINAI AGREEMENT COALESCES

EMBASSY DAMASCUS REPORTS THAT PRIVATE SYRIAN ACCEPTANCE OF THE SINAI AGREEMENT AS A NECESSARY STEP TO PERMIT CONTINUATION OF US PEACEKEEPING EFFORTS IS GIVING WAY TO DISENCHANTMENT AND CALLS FOR ABROGATION. THE OPPOSITION, WHICH RESULTS FROM A CLASSIC BAATH PARTY CAMPAIGN TO EDUCATE AND INCITE THE POPULACE, POINTS UP THAT:

--AWARE OF THE MARGINAL ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF RECOVERING THE GOLAN, THE SYRIANS FEAR THE PRICE IN US AID TO ISRAEL OUTWEIGHS THE GOLAN'S VALUE TO SYRIA.

--THE SYRIANS ARE SINCERE ABOUT PALESTINIAN RIGHTS. (CONFIDENTIAL) DAMASCUS 3894, 10/6.)

4. ARGENTINE GUERRILLA OPERATION FAILS

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EMBASSY BUENOS AIRES REPORTS THAT IN THEIR FIRST MAJOR ACTION AGAINST THE ARMY AND THE LARGEST EXTREMIST MOVE TO DATE, THE MONTONEROS FAILED TO FREE CAPTIVE TERRORISTS. AT

LEAST26 PERSONS WERE KILLED WHEN THE GUERRILLAS HIJACKED AN ARGENTINEAIRLINER, TOOK OVER A PROVINCIAL AIRPORT, AND ATTACKEDAN ARMY BASE.

EMBASSYCOMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE MONTONEROS USUALLY CONFINE THEMSELVES TO THE INTERNECINE STRUGGLE WITHIN THE PERONIST MOVEMENT, THEY ARE LIKELY TO CONTINUE THEIR ATTEMPTS TO PRO-VOKE A MILITARY SEIZURE OF POWER, BELIEVING SUCH A STEP WOULDULTIMATELY FAVOR THEIR REVOLUTIONARY CAUSE. THE MILITARY IS AWARE OF THE GUERRILLAS' MOTIVES AND IS UNLIKELY TO BE PROVOKED TO IRRATIONAL ACTS. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) BUENOS AIRES 3001, 10/6.)

5. BANGLADESH AND PRC ESTABLISH RELATIONS

PEKING RADIO ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY THAT A JOINT COMMUNIQUE ON ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WAS SIGNED BY THE FOR-EIGN MINISTERS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES OCTOBER 4 IN NEW YORK. EMBASSY DACCA BELIEVES THIS TO BE A TRIUMPH FOR THE MOSHTA-QUEGOVERNMENT AND COMPLETES BANGLADESH'S ENTRY INTO THE DIPLOMATIC CIRCLE OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE TO ITS INTERESTS. (CONFIDENTIAL) DACCA 4877 (LIMDIS), 10/6.)

6. SOMALI ISLANDS: SOVIET DIEGO GARCIA?

EMBASSY MOGADISCIO WAS TOLD BY A SOMALI SOURCE WITH MILITARY CONTACTS THAT THE GOS DECISION ANNOUNCED OCTOBER 4 TO RELO-CATE THE INHABITANTS OF THREE INDIAN OCEAN ISLANDS TO THE

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MAINLAND WAS UNDERTAKEN TO FACILITATE SOVIET NAVAL ACTIV-ITIES ON OR NEAR THE ISLANDS. SOMALI PUNDITS HAVE DUBBED THE OPERATION "OUR DIEGO GARCIA." THE EMBASSY IS INCLINED TO GO ALONG WITH THIS INTERPRETATION, ALTHOUGH IT HAS NO HARD INFORMATION ON SOMALI/SOVIET INTENTIONS. (CONFIDEN-TIAL) MOGADISCIO 1426, 10/6.) KISSINGER

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